

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 4, 2001

Present: Billis, Bayless, Dumond, Hornus, Mehigh, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Avery Weaver, County Commissioner; Larry LeCureux; Judy Horton; Sam Burwell; Gene Sanderson; Dick Sanderson; Mary Buginsky, County Commissioner; Dan Savick; Don Washburn; Karen Johnson; Cathy Spencer; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Larry Friess; Jeff Bemus; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the agenda as presented by changing Item No. 11) Closed Session-Contract Negotiations to Item No. 13 and adding Item No. 11) Consider Traffic Control Orders and Item No. 12) Consider School Election Support.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Runyan reminded the council about the truck show this weekend.

Councilperson Hornus stated the streets look nice.

Councilperson Dumond stated he has not had too much to say at the last few meetings, but there are things that are bothering him so he wanted to talk about them. He further stated he had no committee report to give, but wanted to read a prepared statement he had written. Mayor Billis asked if they were council business. Councilperson Dumond

advised no. Mayor Billis advised council has to use this time that it is allotted for. This is not the time to air grievances. Councilperson Dumond stated fine.

Councilperson Mehigh gave an update on the dam. He advised the dam draw down is on schedule and the inspection has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 7. He further advised a river clean up day has been scheduled for Saturday.

Councilperson Ockerman gave an update on the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency. He advised there are between 1,000 and 1,100 weekly riders. He informed the audience the transportation agency is funded through state, federal, and gasoline taxes, but the agency still loses about \$5,000 per month. Councilperson Ockerman stated the transportation agency has been trying to construct a building. He further stated the agency entered into a resolution with the Regional Educational Service District, and they are going to build and rent the facility to the transportation agency. Currently, the transportation agency has \$300,000 in hand for a building, and the full cost of the building that is being proposed is \$800,000. He also stated 80 percent of the building costs are federal funds, and since the Regional Educational Service District will be a partner, it will not take a lot for the transportation agency to break even. Councilperson Ockerman advised there is a piece of property available in the City of Owosso where the old Redmond plant was located. This property has been cleaned up by the City of Owosso with federal grants.

Councilperson Bayless advised he has asked Mr. Sawyer to consider putting line items in the budget for the parks and recreation and hockey rink improvement funds. Several parks and recreation commission members have stated that the commission's hockey rink contract recommendation was changed when it got to the city council. Councilperson Bayless further advised it made some sense to charge the adult and youth hockey league the same fee, but the commission's recommendation was \$2.00 per member instead of \$5.00 because the youth hockey league put a lot of effort and money into building the hockey rink. He also advised there are some parents who have more than one child playing hockey, and there could be a hardship placed on those parents. Councilperson Bayless suggested that the youth hockey league should get a little fee break and not be the same as the adult hockey league. He stated the commission would like any money that is collected from the adult and youth hockey league to be set aside and put back into the hockey rink. He further stated there are several improvements such as a concession stand, lighting and landscaping that need to be done. Councilperson Bayless advised the parks and recreation commission would like to see the net gain from events that are designated as fundraisers put away for park improvements. The commission would like to see the money that is raised set aside in case there is a project the commission wants to do. Councilperson Bayless informed council the federal taxes for the ambulance service are completely paid. There were a couple of reports that were not filed in the beginning, but they have now been filed so there are no federal tax issues at all. He further informed he was stilling working on the state withholding taxes. He also informed council and the audience that the Corunna ambulance service has its own advanced life support unit, which has been in operation since August 23. Councilperson Bayless advised the grant that the Memorial Healthcare Center applied for was approved and there are now funds available. The ambulance service has not purchased a monitor yet for the advanced life

support unit so the ambulance service is trying to get money from the grant to purchase this piece of equipment.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Avery Weaver introduced himself and advised the audience that he is the county commissioner for the area.

Mary Buginsky introduced herself and advised she is on the county commission board that deals with insurances.

Sam Burwell, 314 W. Mack Street, stated there was dam meeting held on August 29 and a proposal from Capital Consultants was presented for what they felt they needed to do in order to give the city a full view of the condition of the dam. Mr. Burwell further stated Capital Consultants has proposed \$24,000 worth of goodies, but after much discussion the dam review committee settled on a figure of \$15,000. Mr. Burwell also stated he was aware that the cost was \$5,000 more than what was budgeted, but he has been assured by Mr. Sawyer that he could find the money. Mr. Burwell advised the committee's decision was unanimous, and the reason for spending the extra money was to include sediment testing. Capital Consultants could not give the committee a full idea or report of what it will cost without the sediment testing. Mr. Burwell urged the city council to authorize the extra \$5,000. Mr. Burwell commended Councilperson Mehig for doing his own dam inspection on Saturday, but suggested that he might want to wear goggles the next time.

Larry Friess, 302 E. McArthur Street, stated it looked like Councilperson Dumond wanted to say something, but there is nowhere in the meeting where a councilperson or anybody else who has something to say could say it. Mayor Billis advised there is a place when the discussion pertains to city business. Mr. Friess advised Mayor Billis that he did know at that point what was going to be said. Mayor Billis advised yes he knew, and he prefers to run a meeting that deals with business. According to Robert's Rules, anybody can vigorously attack a motion that is on the table, but nobody for good reason has the right to attack another individual who is on the council. Mr. Friess stated does that mean he could not get up and attack the mayor. Mayor Billis further advised the city council does not really have the right to attack the audience. He informed Mr. Friess that he could stand up and attack anyone on the council. Mr. Friess stated then Councilperson Dumond could come here as a citizen and attack the city council. Mayor Billis advised he certainly could, and he would probably gavel him. If he did not stop, then he would probably have him removed. Mr. Friess stated Councilperson Dumond might have a little more power as a councilperson than what the mayor thinks he has. Mayor Billis stated he does not want to get into a power struggle. This is just actual courtesy. Mr. Friess advised we all have been raked over the coals one time or another. He further advised he knows this because he sat on the council for ten years and took his beating, but all it did was make him older. Mayor Billis stated a public official has to take more of a beating than Mr. Friess would have to take. He further stated he has asked Councilperson Dumond and the rest of the city council to quit utilizing council time to attack one another because this was not the appropriate place to do that. Mayor Billis also stated if Councilperson Dumond wants to go out and talk to Jackie Leone about what his complaints are and take it to the newspaper then he has every right to do that. Mr. Friess stated if he was on the council seat and Councilperson Dumond wanted to attack to

him then he could sue him here than in the paper because the paper might not get it right. The paper has always been honest but he has not known the paper to get it right. Mr. Friess further stated he was not sticking up for Councilperson Dumond but was asking on the behalf of the whole council.

Sam Burwell, 314 W. Mack Street, stated he was going to be courteous, diplomatic and was going to read council a couple of brief things. First of all, Councilperson Dumond is a resident of Corunna, and he can speak at this portion of the meeting. Mr. Burwell further stated it was his understanding if Councilperson Dumond starts to attack then he could get the gavel. If this is done, he should not speak if you think you know what he is going to do. Councilperson Ockerman stated Mr. Mayor. Mr. Burwell stated he wanted to finish. Mayor Billis advised Mr. Burwell that he does not tell anybody they cannot speak. Mr. Burwell advised at the August 20 meeting there were three pages of roundtable discussion and only one person spoke about the board the person was on, which was Councilperson Bayless. Mr. Burwell further advised he was not attacking. He was simply reading right from the minutes. He also advised the minutes state "Councilperson Ockerman also advised the public needed to know and the public does not need to be deceived in that manner and that is very, very deceptive and he resented that so he was correcting the record right now. Mr. Burwell continued "Councilperson Ockerman stated the federal taxes have not been paid and the public needs to know that this might be a criminal problem. He hated to make the statement because it sounds so tough but it is a fact. There are some serious problems in the ambulance service." Mr. Burwell stated he considered this to be an attack and the mayor did not stop it. Mayor Billis advised Mr. Burwell he was right, but there comes a point where he has to say enough is enough and he thought that was what he was saying. Mayor Billis further advised we could all be responsible adults and treat each other with courtesy. Jeff Bemus stated the mayor had a good point and asked when the right time would be and where the right place would be if a person has an opinion. He asked why not now. Mayor Billis advised if council feels that they want the right to sit here and attack each other and affect the community, then that is a decision that council needs to make as a whole, and there is nothing he could do about it. Council has the power and not him. Mr. Burwell stated apparently not. The mayor has allowed some people to do it and he asked Mayor Billis not to let anybody do it. Mayor Billis stated he was trying to stop everybody and that is exactly what he was trying to do here. Councilperson Bayless called for a point of order. He advised the situation was getting out of control. There are people who are speaking that are not recognized. He further advised the meeting should be kept orderly. Mayor Billis stated what this council chooses to do as a whole and majority then that is the direction he would go. Mr. Burwell stated he had one last thing. The attacks should come to a stop, and they should have come to a stop a long time ago. He further stated the mayor was a little bit late.

Judy Horton reminded council about the antique truck show on Sunday.

Councilperson Bayless advised the proposed bylaw change is the next issue the ambulance board would be addressing. The bylaw issue has been ongoing for over a year now. He further advised at the last annual meeting the bylaw issue was not tabled; it was sent back to the committee. The committee will be meeting before the September 20 regular meeting. Councilperson Bayless informed council he has proposed having a

special annual type meeting of the members, which includes all of the residents in the contracted service area. Everybody in the contracted service area would have a vote on how the ambulance service is to operate. He advised the annual meeting would be held on Monday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Corunna High School cafeteria. He further advised he delivered a letter to Caledonia Township informing them of the meeting, but he has not had a chance to inform everybody so the city council was hearing about this for the first time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience.

TABLE EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 17, 2001: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to table the clerk, treasurer and chief of police contracts to the September 17, 2001 council meeting. Councilperson Ockerman asked why council was tabling the contracts. He explained to council why this was up and the labor committee had every opportunity to contact Mr. Sawyer and do this ahead of time and to find out what dates the contracts was up, but the committee did not do that. He further explained a motion was made last week to table the contracts until this week. Now, you want to go another two weeks. He asked what the reason was. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Sawyer to answer that question. Mr. Sawyer advised there are some benefit issues that the labor committee is checking into, and there was no recommendations from the labor committee when the committee met on August 30. The labor committee is meeting September 13 and hopefully, the committee will make a recommendation to council. Councilperson Ockerman stated there might be something else in two weeks. He asked if this was the way things were going here. He further stated there were committee people at the meeting as well as staff and things were said that he did not think should have been said, but no minutes were taken. He also stated he did not understand what the labor committee was doing. The labor committee is made up of two councilmembers and the mayor. Mayor Billis asked Councilperson Ockerman if he would like to be on the labor committee. Councilperson Ockerman advised no. Mayor Billis asked Councilperson Ockerman if he had no faith in this committee to do the job. Councilperson Ockerman advised "you have got that right". Mayor Billis stated then let the committee do its job. Councilperson Ockerman stated the committee is not doing it.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Bayless, Runyan.

No: Ockerman.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TREE REMOVALS: Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to authorize the removal of trees in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 to be paid out of line item 101-441-808.000 and authorize the city manager to obtain bids and execute the removal. Councilperson Ockerman stated in the past the city has had people point out trees, and asked this was done this way. Mr. Sawyer advised the same general concept was done this year. He further advised his manager's report has a list of the trees that have been identified and bids were sent out to three or four tree removal services but only one bid was received. In the meanwhile, some additional trees have been identified so the intent is to send the bids out again and try to force the additional trees in the bid. Councilperson Ockerman asked what the budgeted line item was and what the maximum amount budgeted was.

Mr. Sawyer advised the amount budgeted was \$2,500, and the bid received was for about \$2,800. He further advised this appears to be an area where the city went longer than it should have in the past.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN: Avery Weaver, County Commissioner, advised the prescription drug plan was a voluntary program for senior citizens over 60 years of age, and the cost is \$15.00 per person. He further advised the enrollment period is going on right now and would be going on for one more week, and encouraged the city council to officially offer the program to the residents of the city who are qualified for the program. He also advised he thought the program was worthwhile, and it has a potential to provide some savings to the people who live in the county. Mary Buginsky, County Commissioner, explained she brought the program forward after finding out that the program has run successfully in other counties. She further explained some counties pay the \$15.00 fee for their senior citizens, but Shiawassee County does not have the budget that some counties do. She also explained some people would get their \$15.00 back with the first prescription that is filled. Ms. Buginsky stated almost all prescription drugs are covered. The prescription drugs are listed in a blue book, which lists the price the drug companies sell the drugs to the various agencies. She further stated the prescription price would be the same that is given to those people who take the buses over to Canada. The cost of name brand drugs like Provacal would be cut by at least 30 percent, and if a generic drug is issued, there could be a 50 percent savings. She also stated the county board of commissioners wanted nothing to do with the program because there was no place for someone to take the enrollments. Ms. Buginsky advised when she left the commissioner's meeting, she was met by three township supervisors, and they told her she had to push the program forward. After several meetings, a decision was made to do the program if the local government entities would take in the enrollment forms. She further advised she would be in the office on Saturday, September 15 along with three excellent secretarial staff, who have volunteered to assist her, to type the enrollments in the database. Ms. Buginsky stated a person has to be a Shiawassee County resident and not be on Medicaid in order to qualify for the card. One enrollment form has to be turned in for each person. She further stated she hopes to be able to locate this program into an office next year because it is proving that it takes less than five minutes to process paperwork. The database has been set up to print out a postcard or letter when the card has to be renewed. Councilperson Dumond asked what the obligation of the City of Corunna administrative staff would be. Ms. Buginsky advised the administrative staff would only have to one check for all of the applications that are taken in. Councilperson Dumond asked if the city would just accumulate the applications and collect the checks. Ms. Buginsky advised yes, but the checks have to be processed. Councilperson Dumond asked if the checks have to be made out to the City of Corunna. Ms. Buginsky advised that was correct because the county treasurer's office only wants to deal with 16 to 20 checks at the most. She further advised the county is writing a check to the Shiawassee County Health Department, which might be an option too. Councilperson Runyan asked if each prescription drug would have a different percentage. Ms. Buginsky advised the average savings for a name brand drug such as Provacal or Lipitor would be \$60.00 per

prescription. Councilperson Hornus asked if the enrollment was a one-time deal. Ms. Buginsky advised the program is renewable, but the county commissioners passed a resolution to do the program for one year. People are going to have to contact the county commissioners and tell them the program needs to be renewed. Councilperson Bayless asked if the contract could be opened up to everybody in the future. Ms. Buginsky advised it could. Right now, the program is only for senior citizens. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the feedback received from other counties has been positive. Ms. Buginsky advised yes. Councilperson Mehigh stated the program sounds like a win/win situation. Councilperson Runyan stated some people cannot take generic drugs and asked if the people would have to pay the lower percentage. Ms. Buginsky advised yes. A person would have to pay more for a name brand drug than a generic drug. Councilperson Ockerman stated he wanted to do everything he could for senior citizens because he is soon to be one. He further stated the county board of commissioners adopted the program on June 14, but the city only has two weeks to make a decision. He asked why the county waited so long to bring the program to the city. Ms. Buginsky advised the resolution was passed on June 14, but the contract got held up in committee. Councilperson Ockerman asked who would work on the database in the future and what the cost would be. Ms. Buginsky advised the commissioners got into discussion about how much time it was going to take, but the time is not as lengthy as the commissioners were making it out to be. The commissioners at one point suggested adding a staff member at one of the other offices to do the database and charge the senior citizens \$25.00. She also advised when the employee was not working on the database the employee could do other jobs for the county, but she objected because she was not going to create another office at the expense of the county citizens. Ms. Buginsky stated if the county decides to do what Councilperson Bayless suggested and open the enrollment to everyone then she would look at the cost to make that a reality. Councilperson Ockerman asked if there was a minimum number of people the county has to have to do the program. Ms. Buginsky advised no. The Michigan Association of Counties has sanctioned the ability to provide this program if and only if the company would also go to the small counties who cannot provide the numbers. Mr. Weaver stated part of the concern he had was doing a new program in the middle of a current year, and the plan that the commissioners came up with was very workable. Councilperson Ockerman stated the program was well presented. Mr. Sawyer stated the simplicity of the form was something the city could handle since the enrollment period was just two weeks. Councilperson Ockerman stated he does not like to have a gun pointed at his head. Ms. Buginsky stated she understood that. Runyan moved, Dumond seconded to participate in the Shiawassee County Voluntary Discount Prescription Program for city residents age 60 and over.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehigh, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE: Ockerman moved,

Dumond seconded to approve the replacement of the floodgates as routine dam maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 to be paid for from line item 101-441-818.102 and authorize the city manager to execute the repair. Councilperson Bayless asked if there were any requirements to put back what was taken out such as the wood

timbers and if there were any other options available. Mr. Sawyer advised the lumber estimate to replace both sides of the floodgate is around \$600.00 or \$700.00.

Councilperson Bayless stated he looked at the floodgates, and it looks like some reframing will have to be done before the timber is put back. Mr. Sawyer advised there was no channel that the timbers set in. It was just the water pressure holding the timbers up against the walls. He further advised as the boards were removed one by one he noticed the ends of the boards had rotted off. He also advised the floodgates would be reconstructed in the same manner that existed. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would like to redesign the floodgates a little bit.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR DAM INSPECTION: Runyan moved, Hornus seconded to approve the Dam Engineering Agreement with Capital Consultants for basic services in the amount of \$15,000 to be paid for from line item 101-441-818.102 and authorize the mayor to sign the contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CITY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT SUPPORT OF RIVER CLEAN UP:

Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to authorize the use of city personnel and equipment in support of the Shiawassee River Clean Up and authorize refreshments to be provided for volunteers. Councilperson Mehigh stated the river appears to be pretty clean. Councilperson Runyan asked if the river clean up would be publicized. Mr. Sawyer advised a notice was already sent to the paper.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SIGNAL COST AGREEMENTS: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the Traffic Signal Control Cost Agreements with the State of Michigan in the amount of \$1,236 to be paid for from line item 202-451-818.000 and authorize the mayor to sign the contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF DUMP TRUCK: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve

the purchase of a dump truck in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to be paid out of line item 661-902-977.000 and authorize the city manager to obtain bids and execute the purchase. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the dump truck was budgeted. Mr. Sawyer advised yes.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL: Ms. Washburn explained what the Medieval Festival was, and she thought the festival would be good for the city. Ockerman moved, Dumond seconded to support the use of McCurdy Park for a Medieval Festival as presented and refer back to the Parks and Recreations Commission for contract development and recommendation.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehigh, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve No Parking Traffic Control Order 191 for East McArthur Street from Comstock Street to Kingsley Street, both north and south sides.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Runyan moved, Hornus seconded to approve No Parking Traffic Control Order 192 for North Kingsley Street between McArthur Street and King Street, both east and west sides.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SCHOOL ELECTION SUPPORT: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to approve the use of four privacy booths by and at the Corunna Public Schools on September 5, 6, 11 & 13.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton asked how deep the river was. Councilperson Mehigh advised the depth of the river varies in different places.

CLOSED SESSION – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to

leave the regular meeting and go into closed session for contract negotiations.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:42 p.m.

Mehig moved, Bayless seconded to leave the closed session and return to the regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:45 p.m.

No action was taken during the closed session.

ADJOURN: Dumond moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:46 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK